

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-49 (canceled).

Claim 50 (new): A method for providing bonus play in a gaming machine, said method comprising:

providing a plurality of bonus rounds, one of the plurality of bonus rounds selected for each bonus play of the gaming machine, each bonus round of the plurality of bonus rounds having a bonus multiplier associated with at least one bonus multiplier opportunity,

issuing the at least one bonus multiplier opportunity during bonus play in the gaming machine,

displaying a winning graphic when a game outcome in the game machine results in a payoff,

awarding in the gaming machine a bonus payoff based on the bonus multiplier associated with the issued bonus multiplier opportunity and the aforesaid payoff in response to displaying the winning graphic.

Claim 51 (new): The method of claim 51 further comprising:

displaying a losing graphic when the game outcome in the gaming machine does not result in a payoff.

Claim 52 (new): The method of claim 50 wherein the bonus multiplier is different for each successive bonus round.

Claim 53 (new): The method of claim 50 wherein the plurality of bonus rounds is a number randomly selected in a predetermined range of numbers.

Claim 54 (new): The method of claim 50 wherein the bonus multiplier increases for each successive bonus round and wherein the predetermined number of bonus multiplier opportunities decrease for each successive bonus round.

Claim 55 (new): A method for providing bonus play in a gaming machine, said method comprising:

- providing a bonus round, the bonus round having at least one bonus multiplier associated with a bonus multiplier opportunity,

- issuing the at least one bonus multiplier opportunity during bonus play in the gaming machine,

- displaying a winning graphic when a game outcome in the gaming machine results in a payoff,

- awarding in the gaming machine a bonus payoff based on the bonus multiplier associated with the issued bonus multiplier opportunity and the aforesaid payoff in response to displaying the winning graphic.

Claim 56 (new): The method of claim 55 further comprising:

- displaying a losing graphic when the game outcome in the gaming machine does not result in a payoff.

Claim 57 (new): The method of claim 55 wherein the bonus multiplier is different for each next bonus round.

Claim 58 (new): The method of claim 55 wherein the bonus payoff does not exceed maximum value.

Claim 59 (new): A method for providing bonus play in a system of linked gaming machines, the method comprising:

- determining eligibility of each of the linked gaming machines to play a bonus round,

displaying an eligible graphic at a linked gaming machine determined to be eligible,

providing a bonus round to each gaming machine determined to be eligible for bonus play, the bonus round having a bonus multiplier associated with at least one bonus multiplier opportunity,

issuing the at least one bonus multiplier opportunity to each gaming machine determined to be eligible,

displaying a winning graphic when a game outcome resulting in a payoff occurs in the eligible gaming machine,

awarding in the aforesaid eligible gaming machine a bonus payoff based on the bonus multiplier associated with the issued bonus multiplier opportunity and the aforesaid payoff in response to displaying a winning graphic.

Claim 60 (new): The method of claim 59 further comprising:

displaying a losing graphic when a game outcome does not result in a payoff occurs in the eligible gaming machine.

Claim 61 (new): The method of claim 59 further comprising:

displaying an ineligible graphic at a linked gaming machine determined to be ineligible.